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# SPACE CENTER Roundup

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## *Atlantis'* crew readies space station for first inhabitants



NASA Photos STS101-717-094 and STS101-724-044

**A**tlantis' astronauts got the Memorial Day holiday off to a great start as they glided to a predawn landing on May 29, completing a successful 4,076,000-mile mission, the second shuttle flight of the year.

With Commander Jim Halsell and Pilot Scott "Doc" Horowitz at the controls, *Atlantis* landed at 1:20 a.m. CDT. It was the 14th nighttime landing in shuttle history and the 22nd consecutive mission to end with a landing at the Kennedy Space Center.

After spending Memorial Day in Florida undergoing routine medical exams, resting and celebrating the holiday with family members, Halsell, Horowitz, Flight Engineer Jeff Williams, Mission Specialists Jim Voss, Susan Helms, Mary Ellen Weber and Russian Cosmonaut Yury Usachev returned to Houston May 30. A crowd of well-wishers, including JSC Director George Abbey and U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Houston), greeted them at Ellington Field.

"What a great way to start off Memorial Day bringing this mission to a close," Abbey

told the crowd of several hundred gathered in Hangar 990. "It was a great landing and a great ending to a great flight."

"I would like to thank all of you – to thank you for your time day after day, hour after hour, minute after minute, and, yes, second after second," Jackson Lee told those in attendance.

Jackson Lee thanked the crew for completing the details necessary to prepare the International Space Station for future crews. "America needs to understand the enormous work that was done on this particular tour of duty, this particular visit, in making sure that the space station is ready for future inhabitants. Your work is most important. We thank you so very much for it."

The station's greatest benefits will come from research done aboard it in the fields of medicine and biotechnology, said Jackson Lee, who has served on the House Science Committee since becoming a member of the U.S. Congress.

"I conclude by saying to you that you make dreams a reality, which Americans will appreciate even more as they understand the value of the space station research

**Left: STS-101 crewmembers, front row from left, Susan Helms, Yury Usachev, Jim Voss; back row, Mary Ellen Weber, Jim Halsell, Jeff Williams, and Scott Horowitz pose for traditional in-flight photo. Right: Jeff Williams (front) and Jim Voss work on exterior of the station during a six-hour, 44-minute space walk.**

when we can bring to an end diseases like diabetes, cancer, heart disease, strokes and HIV because of the enormous work that you are doing," said Jackson Lee.

Riding aboard the upgraded and refurbished Space Shuttle *Atlantis*, the crew rocketed away from their Florida launch site at 5:11 a.m. CDT May 19. Flying five miles a second above the Ukraine, Halsell gently docked *Atlantis* at 11:31 p.m. CDT May 20, flawlessly latching his 200-ton spacecraft to the 35-ton ISS. Halsell and his crew performed the rendezvous and docking with the station by the book, docking on target.

Activities during docked operations began with a space walk by Voss and

Williams. The astronauts secured a United States-built crane that was installed on the station last year; installed the final parts of a Russian-built crane on the station; replaced a faulty antenna for one of the station's communications systems; and installed several handrails and a camera cable on the station's exterior during a six-hour, 44-minute space walk.

The space-walking activity conducted by Voss and Williams marked the fifth space walk conducted for construction of the ISS, the 49th space walk based out of the space shuttle, and the 85th space walk in history conducted by U.S. astronauts.

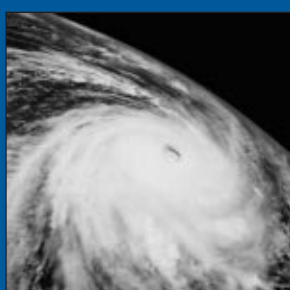
Next began improvements to the interior of the ISS. Inside the Zarya module, Helms and Usachev installed four new batteries and associated electronics. Other home improvements to the station's systems included the installation of 10 new smoke detectors and four new cooling fans in the Zarya module, additional cables for the Zarya computer to enhance its capabilities, a new communications memory unit, and a new power distribution box for the United

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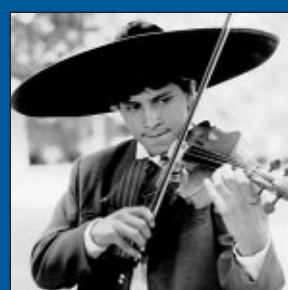
Snapshots  
from an ISS  
world traveler.

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Be prepared:  
it's that time  
of year again.

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Team NASA  
celebrates  
diversity.

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